

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: CONNECTION ELEMENT

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) for the detachable connection of adjacent component parts (2), especially for shelving-type systems, said element comprising:

~~—characterized in that the connection element (1) has several jaw sidewalls (3, 4) that are~~
oriented in different directions, whereby ~~2~~ two jaw sidewalls (3, 4) at a time can be braced against each other to hold a component part (2), ~~in that, whereby~~ at least one jaw sidewall (4) is carried adjustably on the connection element (1) ~~and this jaw sidewall (4) and~~ and projects by a lateral leg (14) into ~~the~~ an inside of the connection element (1); and

~~there is in an~~ active connection with an adjustment element (6, 7) ~~that is to be~~
activated from ~~the~~ an outside thereof in a direction to brace or detach the jaw sidewall (4).

2. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein, by activation of the lateral leg (14), the ~~associated~~ jaw sidewall (4) can be rotated around a rotational axis (32) on ~~the~~ a housing (5) of the connection element (1).

3. (Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said adjustment element-(6, 7) is an eccentric-(6, 7) that is set in bearings so ~~that it can~~
rotate as to be rotatable.

4.(Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said adjustment element is set in bearings so ~~that it can rotate~~ as to be rotatable via
cylindrical guide surfaces-(20) in the connection element-(1).

5. (Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein a bearing of the guide surfaces-(20) is done with a radial play of approx. 0.4 millimeter
to approx. 1 millimeter.

6. (Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said adjustment element-(6, 7) enters into a self-locking brace with the lateral leg-(14).

7. (Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said adjustment element-(6, 7) is in active connection with 2 lateral legs-(14) which are
allocated to different jaw sidewalls-(4).

8. (Currently amended) Connection element-(1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
the wherein said lateral legs-(14) grasp onto the diagonally opposing sides of the adjustment element
(6, 7).

9. (Currently amended) Connection element ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each adjustable jaw sidewall ~~(4)~~ lies opposite a rigid jaw sidewall ~~(3)~~.

10. (Currently amended) Connection element ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it has~~ further comprising: at least two adjustment elements ~~(6, 7)~~ arranged approximately coaxially
above each other.

11. (Currently amended) Connection element ~~(1)~~ according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
~~an~~ wherein said adjustment element ~~(6)~~ is ~~to be~~ activated through an opening ~~(8)~~ of the other
adjustment element ~~(7)~~.

12. (Currently amended) Connection element ~~(1)~~ according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ wherein said adjustment elements ~~(6, 7)~~ are ~~to be~~ activated by variably sized Allen-type
wrenches.

13. (Currently amended) Connection element ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it has~~, further comprising: on the activation side of the at least one adjustment element ~~(6, 7)~~, a cover
~~(9)~~ with an opening that functions for the guidance of a wrench for adjusting the adjustment element
~~(6, 7)~~.

14. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ wherein said lateral leg (14) has an offset (26) opposite the eccentric (6, 7) that is not allocated
thereto to said lateral leg.

15. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein spacers (10) can be clamped or made to catch on the jaw sidewalls (3, 4).

16. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ wherein said spacers (10) can be clamped in recesses (12) of at least one jaw sidewall (3, 4).

17. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ wherein said spacers (10) have a bent extension on part of ~~their~~ an edge thereof.

18. (Currently amended) Connection element (1) according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
~~the~~ wherein said spacers (10) have a hinge with a rotating bracket on part of their edge.